

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 572 (Senator Hafer)

Judicial Proceedings

Family Law - Child Support Guidelines - Work-Related Child Care Expenses

This bill provides that child care expenses due to employment or job search of either parent be subtracted from actual income of a parent for the purposes of determining basic child support obligations. It repeals a requirement that a court add actual child care expenses to the basic child support obligation. The bill applies only to cases to establish or modify child support filed on or after October 1, 1998.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential indeterminate increase in general fund Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) or Purchase of Care (POC) expenditures. Revenues would not be affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: Basic child support obligations would decrease, because under current law child care expenses due to employment or job search are added to the basic child support obligation whereas the bill requires child care expenses due to employment or job search to be subtracted from a parent's income in determining the basic child support obligation. As a result, general fund expenditures for TCA or POC could increase to the extent that the amount of child support paid to a custodial parent decreases and the custodial parent must seek cash assistance or subsidized child care to make ends meet.

Information Source(s): Department of Human Resources, Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History:

First Reader - March 4, 1998

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